

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2472
Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum
2130 Gwynn Oak Avenue
Baltimore, Baltimore County
1914-1916
Private

The Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum was designed by the Baltimore City firm of Mottu and White and constructed between 1914 and 1916 on land originally developed by the Powhatan Manufacturing Company. In 1903, the Woodlawn Cemetery Corporation purchased the buildings and land of the Powhatan company town, established in 1809 as a village surrounding Jesse and Enoch Levering's Powhatan textile mill. Although the mill had experienced high production levels through the mid-19th century, the Powhatan Manufacturing Company had reduced production by the 1890s. The company's remote location away from direct rail lines to Baltimore hindered the transportation of goods from the factory to the city and, therefore trade and commerce between the two locations. In 1895, a fire destroyed the Powhatan factory, thus resulting in the demise of the company. After the Woodlawn Cemetery Corporation purchased the land encompassing the village of Powhatan in the early 1900s, they began demolishing the factory buildings for the establishment of a large cemetery. By 1915, the majority of the mill-related buildings were gone.

Located on the edge of the Woodlawn Cemetery, the Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum is a one-story, Neoclassical style building of dressed marble construction with a flat, parapeted roof with a central metal-clad dome. The façade, or south elevation, of the building is pierced by a recessed, central entry with a paneled double-leaf metal flanked by monumental Doric columns. The projecting entry features a triglyph frieze below a cornice that spans the perimeter of the building. A large, circa 2000 addition was constructed on the east elevation of the building. Of marble construction, the one-story addition is five bays wide with two double-leaf doors that pierce the south elevation. The building sits at the north end of a circular drive at the intersection of Gwynn Oak Avenue and Woodlawn Drive.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2472

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

other

Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum

2. Location

street and number 2130 Gwynn Oak Avenue

not for publication

city, town Baltimore

vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Hope, Inc.

street and number PO Box 1391

telephone Not Available

city, town Columbia

state MD

zip code 21044

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber Not Available folio Not Available

city, town Towson

tax map 88

tax parcel 206

tax ID number 2200003246

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- ☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2472

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on the edge of the Woodlawn Cemetery, the Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum is a one-story, Neoclassical style building of dressed marble construction with a flat, parapeted roof with a central metal-clad dome. The façade, or south elevation, of the building is pierced by a recessed, central entry with a paneled double-leaf metal flanked by monumental Doric columns. The projecting entry features a triglyph frieze below a cornice that spans the perimeter of the building. A large, circa 2000 addition was constructed on the east elevation of the building. Of marble construction, the one-story addition is five bays wide with two double-leaf doors that pierce the south elevation. The building, which was constructed between 1914 and 1916, sits at the north end of a circular drive at the intersection of Gwynn Oak Avenue and Woodlawn Drive.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2472

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1914-present

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1914-1916, 2000 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum was designed by the Baltimore City firm of Mottu and White and constructed between 1914 and 1916 on land originally developed by the Powhatan Manufacturing Company. In 1903, the Woodlawn Cemetery Corporation purchased the buildings and land of the Powhatan company town, established in 1809 as a village surrounding Jesse and Enoch Levering's Powhatan textile mill.¹ Although the mill had experienced high production levels through the mid-19th century, the Powhatan Manufacturing Company had reduced production by the 1890s. The company's remote location away from direct rail lines to Baltimore hindered the transportation of goods from the factory to the city and, therefore trade and commerce between the two locations. In 1895, a fire destroyed the Powhatan factory, thus resulting in the demise of the company.² After the Woodlawn Cemetery Corporation purchased the land encompassing the village of Powhatan in the early 1900s, they began demolishing the factory buildings for the establishment of a large cemetery. By 1915, the majority of the mill-related buildings were gone.³

The Baltimore-based architecture firm headed by Howard Mottu and Henry S. Taylor White existed from 1904 until the 1930s. In addition to the Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum, the firm was also responsible for designing numerous buildings in and around the city of Baltimore, including the Stewart Office Building (1905) and the Baltimore Life Insurance Building (1929).⁴ The Neoclassical style of architecture was commonly used as a design source for mausoleums and other cemetery-related buildings.

¹ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), pp. 190-191.

² Brooks and Rockel, 201.

³ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

⁴ Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Los Angeles, CA: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970), p. 651.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2472

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Maryland Historical Trust Inventory
Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.
Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles, CA: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acres
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Baltimore West Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction from 1914-1916, the Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum has been associated with the .19 acres of land known as tax parcel 206 of map 88 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 1, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

BA-2243
320 ST. LUKE'S LANE
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2420
2200 ST. LUKE'S LANE
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

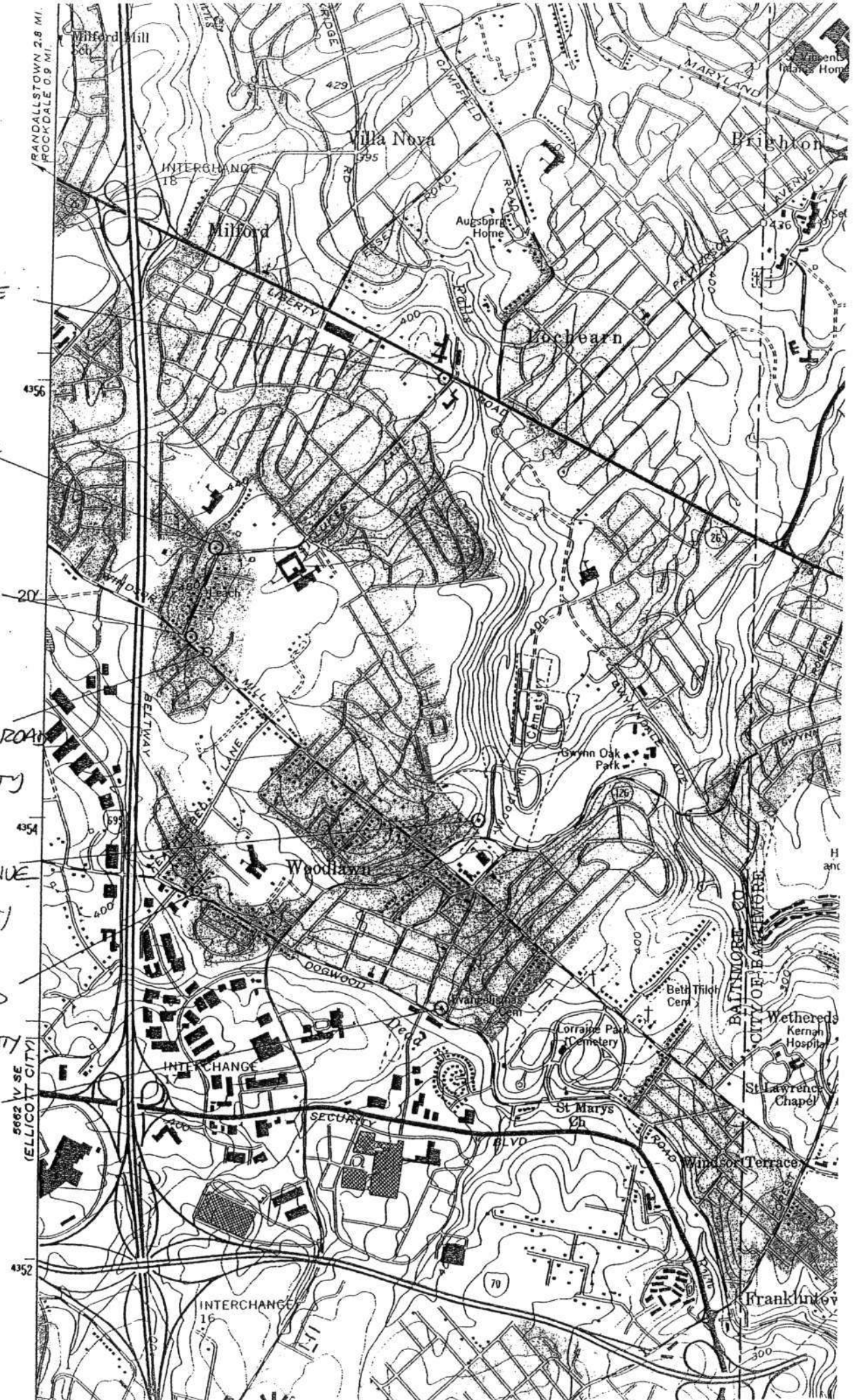
BA-2474
2103 ST. LUKE'S LANE
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2475
830 WINDSOR MILL ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2472
430 Gwynn Oak Avenue
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
Baltimore West

A-2492
720 DOGWOOD ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

A-2466
334 DOGWOOD ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY





BA-2472

WOODLAWN ABBEY

2130 GWYNN OAK AVENUE, BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER, CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

1043



BA-2472

WOODLAWN ABBEY

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SOUTHEAST CORNER, CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

2013



BA-2472

WOODLAWN ABBEY

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

NORTHWEST CORNER, CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST

3 of 5

DISTRICT 2 - continued -

CA-2472 **WOODLAWN ABBEY (MAUSOLEUM)** - 1914-1916 - 2130 Gwynn Oak Avenue, Woodlawn. Classical, domed, marble mausoleum designed by the city firm of Mottu and White, architects. First advertised as "Woodlawn Abbey" by the Woodlawn Cemetery Company. See advertisement in Sun, January 2, 1916.